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TALK TO US

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Smart Car Test Facility Sees the Big Picture

TORONTO — Testing various electronics components such as memory to make sure that they can withstand the rigors of the automotive environment has long been standard operating procedure. But today's smarter cars and emerging autonomous vehicles must be put through their paces as a complete package.

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TI Joins 60 GHz Industrial mmWave Camp

MADISON, Wis. — By re-spinning the company's 76- to 81-GHz sensors originally designed for automotive applications, Texas Instruments made clear this week its intentions to muscle into the industrial market with a 60-GHz mmWave sensor family.

Sameer Wasson, general manager of radar and analytic processors at TI, told us, "There have been very good development activities in certain regions of the world where system vendors are rapidly embracing 77-GHz mmWave sensors and putting out their production systems."

However, in other regions, most notably North America, the story is different.

AMD Announces 7nm Processors

SAN FRANCISCO — Advanced Micro Devices launched its first 7-nm CPU and GPU at the lucrative target of the data center. It showed working chips that delivered comparable performance to Intel's 14-nm Xeon and Nvidia's 16-nm Volta.

AMD has yet to reveal many details about the new chips and their performance. However, analysts are generally bullish that the company will be able to continue a significant comeback since it launched its first Zen-based chips on a 14-nm process in late 2016.

"We are all about high performance … The idea is to be incredibly ambitious and recognize it's a journey," said chief executive Lisa Su in a press and analyst event here. "AMD is totally committed to the data center. This is our space and this is where we will lead."

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Arm put smart offload processors in the spotlight at its annual developers' conference because they are stepping stones to its data center ambitions. The cloud is the latest target for the still-small designer of cores that investor Softbank is betting will be a semiconductor giant someday.

The name is a relatively new handle, but the chips have been around for years. They first emerged as TCP offload engines more than 15 years ago. Now, they sometimes ride network interface cards called smart NICs.

Along with the new smart names, the chips have taken on more jobs. Today, they handle a flexible basket of security, storage, and virtualization tasks.

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Attendees at the Samsung Developer Conference here got a brief glimpse of a working prototype of the new hybrid mobile system and heard a tutorial about how to develop apps for it.

Google said that it will create extensions to the next version of Android for foldable devices. It will also release APIs to support multi-windowing interfaces that Samsung described for its foldable. Samsung and Google aim to release an emulator for the new screen sizes and their behaviors for developers before actual devices ship.

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In Europe, this can now be done at the AstaZero 5G test facility, a joint venture of Swedish state-owned Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE) and Chalmers University. In a telephone interview with EE Times, AstaZero CEO Peter Janevik said that it's the most advanced testing environment for self-driving vehicles, designed to provide the data necessary to predict vehicle behavior in real-life situations without the need for on-the-road testing.